

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR/3

FROM: SR/3/W28

SUBJECT: Contact with Nicholas ABRAMTCHIK on 2 January 1954

1. The following is a report of contact between Nicholas ABRAMTCHIK, President of the BYELORUSSIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL and [] and [] of the Agency. The meeting was held at the Hotel Governor Clinton 7th Avenue and 11st Street, Room 1705 from 1030 hours to approximately 1345 hours. The case officers used the names of [] and [] respectively.

2. Preceded by an exchange of holiday greetings between the Case Officers and ABRAMTCHIK, the meeting began with a discussion of RADIO LIBERATION and the staffing of the Byelorussian Desk on RADIO LIBERATION in Moscow. ABRAMTCHIK informed the Case Officers that the Byelorussian language broadcast would utilize the service of five (5) people. The advance party of the team would be ZUK-HRYTSKIYDZI to whom ABRAMTCHIK said "a Mr. Dreher" of the AMERICAN COMMITTEE in New York already had submitted a contract. Some of the nominees for the broadcast unit submitted by ABRAMTCHIK to the AMERICAN COMMITTEE were Prof. J. Limonovsky and Simon Kabyach. It is highly possible according to CHACTIVA that Kabyach will get the position in lieu of Limonovsky. Kabyach is in Germany, while Limonovsky would have to be brought from Canada. The remaining members of the group would be one announcer and assorted clerical help.

3. ABRAMTCHIK was informed that we had learned through our sources that names of people prominent in ACTION operations had been submitted for consideration as candidates for the Byelorussian Radio Desk. The attending Case Officers reminded ABRAMTCHIK of the security risks involved. It was explained to him that such behavior was an unnecessary jeopardy to our operation, especially since the AMERICAN COMMITTEE was a private organization about which we know little and had virtually no control. ABRAMTCHIK discounted the apparent concern expressed by the case officers by noting, that although the such names as MAGULA, SYCZ, CVIRKA et al had been submitted, he had no fear MAGULA would accept any position which might be offered to him. He further stated that the names had been submitted as a matter of expediency. ABRAMTCHIK then asked whether or not we had any objections to SYCZ or CVIRKA being employed by RADIO LIBERATION. We said we did not and the discussion shifted to the actual broadcasting. ABRAMTCHIK elaborated on his views as to the effectiveness of the broadcasts. He specifically noted that the ability to receive the RADIO LIBERATION broadcasts would be greater in that part of Byelorussia formerly under the Polish regime as opposed to the territory under Russian rule prior to World War II. He reasoned that private radio sets were available to the Polish area while the other territory, being subject to constant Soviet propaganda and indoctrination was limited to state-controlled media.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2E
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

4. The problem of the opposition within the HIR to any activities with the AMERICAN COMMITTEE was rebroadcast. ABAMTCHIK noted the only dissenting group was led by MENDEL KOKHAROVSKIY of Cleveland, Ohio (KREISMAN NATIONAL BUREAU). KOKHAROVSKIY mustered 27 members of the HIR to his side as opposed to the 134 members who remained with ABAMTCHIK. According to ABAMTCHIK the primary objection to any cooperation with the AMERICAN COMMITTEE is based on paragraph 5 of the HALLS agreement signed by the nationalities, constituting the PARIS MTC. KOKHAROVSKIY, whom ABAMTCHIK described as "too principled", and his followers were objecting on the grounds that the agreement and consequent cooperation with the AMERICAN COMMITTEE was a refutation of the 1917 elections in which the Byelorussian Republic was established. Of course, ABAMTCHIK denied this charge, noting that the agreement entered into with the PARIS MTC was inspired by a common desire to engage in an active anti-Bolshevik struggle. (It is interesting to note that ABAMTCHIK mentioned that the four groups which originally constituted the HIR were now only paper organizations and not actualities.)

5. Conventionally, ABAMTCHIK was told of the pending transfer of [] to the United States for training. He was asked to suggest the name of any person whom he deemed desirable as the HIR representative during the training period. He immediately named GENERAL P. KORSHAL, then told of our tentative plans to utilize ZAPORONIK as "householder". ABAMTCHIK noted that ZAPORONIK was at the University as a student and it would be difficult to have him break off his studies. The case officers told him that it would be desirable to have someone like ZAPORONIK with the trainees, undergoing the same training for use in later operations as a modified operations officer. ABAMTCHIK acknowledged this, and left the decision to HOMIS RAGULA. However, he again stated that a man like KORSHAL would be more desirable even though his contact with the trainees would be limited to one or two weekends per month for political indoctrination sessions. As an alternate ABAMTCHIK suggested ALBERT BRITZINS, a resident of Canada. This man, however, has never been subject to any investigation by the Agency and the time limitation precludes any immediate utilization of the individual. ABAMTCHIK offered some token objection to the legislation facet of the ABSON TEAM III ops. He recalled that in 1943-44 he was in Byelorussia and to the best of his knowledge, the thick woods virtually were impenetrable. He said that living blank would be the desirable approach. He added that any attempt at legalization would be unnecessarily exposing the team members to the authorities. It was explained to ABAMTCHIK that the conditions which were conducive to blank operations then certainly would not be expected to prevail at this late date. ABAMTCHIK agreed, but reiterated that blank living may be better and did not pursue the subject further.

6. Because of the limited time between the 2 January meeting and the physical transference of the trainees, ABAMTCHIK was asked to write a personal letter (copy attached to report) to RAGULA to preclude any possible last minute misunderstandings between the case officers in the field and RAGULA. This ABAMTCHIK agreed to do, but he noted that it was

SECRET

too easy to discuss "sensitive" problems. Obviously providing himself with an "out" in the future. Basically the ABRAHAMSON communication stated that he was aware of our plans not briefing and contacts, the strict training schedule, our stringent control and limited HIR influence during the training period. During the entire contact, the security of the operation was stressed and reinforced.

7. ABRAHAMSON restated the oft-cold argument for a full-scale Cadre School. He reiterated the advantages of such a venture. The Case Officers agreed with him, but then related to him the problem of undertaking such a large venture on foreign soil. He acknowledged the problem and the issue was dropped.

8. The Area Rep Plan as submitted to the Field under HQ-10965 was related to ABRAHAMSON. As envisioned the plan will utilize the services of HIR and MABROUCH as HIR representatives in France and England with MORTA assuming the duties of the representative in Belgium. MORTA will also act as the coordinator between the French and England representatives and the Agency Field Office.

9. ABRAHAMSON submitted the names of [] a medical doctor residing in New York as the individual best suited to undertake the Polonization study. The HIR had submitted a Req 1 which has been transmitted to Security for a PC. According to ABRAHAMSON, [] is presently interested in political writing and has extensive work in the study should take about two years. During the study, [] will divorce himself from his medical activity and will completely devote himself to the study. He will work within the confines of his own home. ABRAHAMSON volunteered to supplement the study with material from the Polonization activities in Paris. Contact with [] if he is selected, will be maintained by the headquarters case officers. The case officers told ABRAHAMSON that nothing definite can be discussed concerning [] for about two or three months pending a review of the designs by our administrative people. Counsel of the study will be done in English. ABRAHAMSON also submitted [] suggestions on the study in outline form. (abstract) At one point in the discussion, ABRAHAMSON suggested that the case officers meet with [] later the same day. It was explained to ABRAHAMSON that nothing would be accomplished by such a meeting and the suggestion was discarded. There were no financial obligations made to ABRAHAMSON.

10. Contact will be maintained with ABRAHAMSON as in the past by phone through RIBALL. He requested that a letter be written to him when the agent-officers have arrived in the United States. At the present time, it is desirable to maintain contact with him by telephone only. It may be desirable to have ABRAHAMSON give the initial political indoctrination talk to the new candidates. He expects to be in the United States for approximately two more months.

SECRET